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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

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IN REPLY REFER TO
AGDA (M) (12 Nov 69)

FOR/OT-UT-693215

21 November 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 164th Aviation Group (U). Ending 31 July 1969 (U)

SEE DISTRIBUTION

⑨ Operational rept. for quarterly period ending 31 Jul 69.

1. ~~Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 4, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACHFOR OT UT, Operational Reports Branch, within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.~~

⑪ 15 Aug 69

⑫ 12p.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

ROBERT E. LYNCH
Colonel, AGC
Acting The Adjutant General

1 Incl
as

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 164th AVIATION GROUP (CGT)
San Francisco 96215

AVAGC

15 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational report of headquarters, 164th Combat Aviation Group
for the period ending 31 July 1969, AUSA G-65 (AI).

SEE DISTRIBUTION.

1. Section 1, Operations: Significant Activities.

a. Unit Mission: The mission of the 164th Combat Aviation Group has not changed since the previous operational report submitted for the period ending 30 April 1969.

b. Organization: Effective 1 July 1969, the 214th Combat Aviation Battalion was assigned to the 164th Combat Aviation Group. Prior to that date the 214th CAV was assigned to the 12th Aviation Group and under operational control of the 164th CAG. For current organization and stationing of 164th CAG see Inclosure 1.

c. Personnel Changes:

(1) COL Jack V. Mackanull, 294226931, relinquished command of the 164th CAG to COL Jack M. Tullinson, 525923458, on 7 June 1969.

(2) LTC Billy I. Merrill, 515241605, assumed duties as the 164th CAG Executive Officer on 15 July 1969, replacing LTC Velma F. Parker, 2343266448.

(3) MAJ Glenn R. Weber, 216382520, was replaced as 164th CAG S-1 by MAJ Jackie D. Catt, 424668444, on 27 June 1969.

(4) MAJ Gerald W. Orr, 554468539, replaced LTC Bobbie G. Berry, 429569255 as 164th CAG S-4 on 22 July 1969.

(5) MAJ David V. Leins Jr, 279301777, assumed duties as the 164th CAG S-3 on 19 May 1969, replacing MAJ William R. Lenderman, 417420983.

d. Unit Strength

(1) Military

Subordinate Unit	Officer		WO		E-4		Total	
	Auth	O/H	Auth	O/H	Auth	O/H	Auth	O/H
MAC	27	40	1	6	69	113	97	159
5th Co Det	0	0	0	0	8	7	8	7
52nd Co Det	0	0	0	0	8	9	8	9
53rd Co Det	0	0	0	0	8	9	8	9
62nd Co Det	0	0	0	0	8	8	8	8
H/29th	7	7	0	0	143	92	150	99

FOR OTUT
693215

Inclosure

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AVBAC

15 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational report of Headquarters, 164th C.G for the period ending 31 July 1969, RGS GORON-65 (M).

(2) Civilian

Subordinate Unit	DnC		Vn		3rd Natl		Contractor	
	Auth	C/n	Auth	C/n	Auth	C/n	Auth	C/n
AVBAC	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0
5th W Det	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
52nd W Det	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
53rd W Det	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
62nd W Det	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4/29th	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

e. Aircraft status as of 31 July 1969:

Un-1a		U-1a		OH-6a	
Auth	C/n	Auth	C/n	Auth	C/n
2	2	1	1	5	1

f. Operational results as of 31 July 1969: Operational results of organic tactical units are reported separately in sub/squad reports indorsed by this Headquarters.

g. Chronological Narrative:

LOGISTICS:

(1) During the reporting period, 164th C.G aircraft consumed 10.1 million gallons of fuel and over 2100 tons of aerial ammunition.

(2) The Group continued to operate 15 forward stagingfields which provide ammunition and fuel for all aviation operations in the IV Corps area. Initial action has been completed which will permit AVB to take control of the fuel and ammunitions at those fields. To date, approximately 50 AVB soldiers have been trained to assume these duties.

AVIATION SAFETY:

The aircraft accident rate for the period 1 May 1969 to 31 July 1969 was 23.61. This was a slight increase over the previous quarter. Continuous command emphasis is being placed on aviation safety.

COMMUNICATIONS:

During this period 164th C.G, Communications Section completed the movement of equipment and circuits to a location near the Group Headquarters. This new facility which allowed for the expansion of the Communication Center also provided air conditioning to maintain an ambient temperature and humidity within the range established as optimum for operation of installed equipment. The assignment of the 214th C.G to the 164th C.G has begun with the corresponding increase of communications between this Battalion and the Group Communications Section. A circuit request was approved providing speech plus, sole user teletypewriter capabilities between this Section and the 214th C.G Communications Section.

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..Vn..Cs 15 August 1969
 Subj: Operational Report of Headquarters, 164th CAG for the period
 ending 31 July 1969, HQS CACN-65 (ml).

Vn..Cs' Involvement Training:

(1) Squadron Training: During June and July 1969, the 211th and 217th helicopter squadrons of the 74th VNAF Wing provided tactical support to IV CTZ. On 15 June 1969, the 74th Wing became operational ready in the UH-1 aircraft. Once operational ready, the 74th Wing, provided one 10 aircraft package and one 7 aircraft package in support of IV CTZ. Each day, the 164th CAG provided armed helicopters for the support of Vn..Cs' operations. Every third day, the Vn..Cs' squadrons provided their own command and control aircraft. An advisor from the 164th CAG renders assistance in the tactical deployment of the armed helicopter.

(2) UH-1 Transition Training: 13 Vn..Cs' pilots completed UH-1 transition training during the quarter. At the end of the quarter, there were 4 Vn..Cs' trainees in the training program. Each pilot received a full course of instruction including ground school and flight instruction. During transition, the student participated in all types of combat operations with the US host unit. During the 90 day course, each pilot flew over 100 hours.

h. Award and Decorations: Awards and decorations received during period 1 May 1969 through 31 July 1969:

SGM	LOM	DFC	SA	BSMV	AMV	ARCOMV	BSM	AM	AACOM
mlc*		5	1		3		31	14	32
a/29th Arty								6	10

* Includes 5th, 52nd, 53rd, and 62nd AB Detachments.

2. Section 2, Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations, and Recommendations:

a. Personnel:

(1) Personnel overages in HHC, 164th CAG (reflected in Section 1, Para 1a (1)).

(a) OBSERVATION: The present MTOE under which HHC, 164th CAG is organized provides insufficient personnel to accomplish the assigned mission of the Group headquarters.

(b) EVALUATION: Although some of the personnel overage is due to imminent rotation, there is a need for modification of the present MTOE in some areas. This Group has taken on added responsibilities from 1st Brigade and from subordinate battalions/squadrons in the areas of personnel management, clubs and messes, courts and boards and operational liaison with ARVN divisions in the IV CTZ. In addition, the 214th CAG was integrated into the Group on 1 July 1969. The present MTOE contains such inequities as: only one officer authorized for the Group TOC (a 24 hour operation).

(c) RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the new MTOE, submitted by this Headquarters 2 March 1969, be approved.

(d) COMMAND ACTION: New MTOE submitted by this HQ, 2 Mar 69.

b. Operations:

(1) Limitations of UH-6A:

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AVENUE

15 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational report of Headquarters, 164th CAG for the period ending 31 July 1969, AOS 08711-05 (A1)

(a) OBSERVATION: The OH-6A has a limited ability to perform night aerial reconnaissance.

(b) EVALUATION: When assigned night hunter missions, Air Cavalry Troops of the 7/1 Air Cavalry Squadron were limited in utilizing their full capabilities. This limitation was the result of the inability of the OH-6A aircraft of the Aero-scout platoon to effectively perform during the hours of darkness. An aircraft with improved instrumentation and lighting devices (landing and search lights) is required.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Instrumentation and lighting devices of the OH-6A should be improved.

(d) COMMAND ACTION: In coordination with CG, DMAC, the 164th CAG will assign future night hunter missions to an airmobile company. This will enable the entire Air Cavalry Troop to be employed during daylight hours and be more effective.

(2) VNAF AIR MISSION COMMANDERS

(a) OBSERVATION: VNAF air mission commanders were not well versed in armed helicopter tactics. Also, the language barrier presented a problem for the VNAF Air Mission Commander when controlling U.S. armed helicopters in support of VNAF operations.

(b) EVALUATION: When armed helicopters from the 164th CAG supported VNAF controlled operations, the armed helicopter pilots experienced a difficulty in understanding VNAF Air Mission Commander. The VNAF Air Mission Commanders exhibited a limited knowledge of armed helicopter tactics, thus resulting in improper employment of armed helicopter assets.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Until VNAF Air Mission Commanders understand armed helicopter tactics and the language barrier is dissolved, a U.S. aviator experienced as an air mission commander accompany all VNAF operations supported by U.S. armed helicopters.

(d) COMMAND ACTION: The 164th CAG requires a qualified U.S. Air Mission Commander to fly with the VNAF Air Mission Commander to ensure gunships are properly employed.

(3) Transport of Aircraft Repair Parts

(a) OBSERVATION: The time required for aircraft repair parts from AMAC, 34th Group, to reach 611th Transportation Company, the Direct Support Maintenance Unit for the 164th CAG, was excessive.

(b) EVALUATION: The 611th Transportation Company determined that the average time required for a part to arrive once the requisition had been submitted was 12.5 days if shipped by the Air Force and 10 days if received through the Army Postal System. If the 611th TC utilized its organic Un1, the time was reduced to 5 days; however, the weight, size and quantity of the parts hauled were limited to the capacity of the Un-1.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: A higher priority be placed on shipment of parts to Direct Support Units or the Direct Support Unit TAC be modified to include a Cn-47.

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AVIATION

15 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 164th CAG for the period ending 31 July 1969, AOC USAF-65 (RI)

(d) COMMAND ACTION: The 164th CAG scheduled a C-47 to transport parts from APOC to the DSO. This action reduced the average delivery time to three days and increased the per cent of part issue upon issue upon receipt of requisition from 34 to 63%. This further resulted in less aircraft in the MOP status and increased aircraft availability.

(4) Frequency Assignments

(a) OBSERVATION: With activation of increased Communication Center requirements for assignments of FM, HF, UHF, and VHF frequencies to the 214th CAG the present status of frequencies authorized becomes inadequate to support the need.

(b) EVALUATION: Due to large requirements for frequencies to support MVA, US, and other Free Forces only a limited number of frequencies are available for assignment to individual units. This problem exists primarily in the FM and UHF spectrum. To achieve maximum utilization of available frequencies, issue must be made on a shared basis; Corps area discrete basis; and (on a limited basis) adjoining Corps discrete basis. In controlling aviation assets through the 164th CAG, it has been found that elements operating in the III & IV Corps area are able to operate best on III & IV Corps discrete frequencies because it is those frequencies that can provide the best servicable and interference free use. The operation in the secure mode is even more dependent upon the use of the interference free III & IV Corps discrete frequencies.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Action should be taken to provide more discrete frequencies for aviation units that: operate in adjoining Corps areas; operate over greater distances; and operate in the secure mode. A concurrent reduction could be made in the reassignment of shared frequencies.

(d) COMMAND ACTION: On 5 July 1969, and 15 July 1969, and 19 July 1969 the 164th CAG submitted frequency proposals to USAFV through 1st Aviation Brigade for HF, UHF, and VHF frequencies to be discrete in the III & IV Corps area. At that time, those frequencies that were unusable to this AG were turned in, contingent upon the reassignment of workable frequencies. Additionally, on 1 June 1969, five FM frequencies were returned to II Field Force and five new FM frequencies were assigned. With the attachment of the 214th CAG, the request for III & IV Corps discrete FM and UHF frequencies made by this Group was forwarded to USAFV and subject frequencies were assigned.

- c. Training: none
- d. Intelligence: none
- e. Logistics

(1) Communication Equipment Failure

(a) OBSERVATION: The Communications section has experienced a decrease in the equipment failure rate during this quarterly OADR period more than at any other time.

(b) EVALUATION: Equipment installed in the comm. center is designed to operate within the 60° to 80° degree temperature range. Air condition-

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AVNOC

15 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational report of headquarters, 164th CAG for the period ending 31 July 1969, AOC COM-65 (M)

ing was installed to maintain the temperature and humidity and a favorable operating condition to preserve the viability and decrease the downtime of communication equipment. Due to the factor of temperature and humidity control the equipment failure now is exactly 50% of that one year ago and has dramatically increased the communications effectiveness of this section.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That all communications facilities be authorized air conditioning on a priority basis, and action be taken to insure that these facilities are air conditioned. It is further recommended that action be taken to reduce the amount of dust and dirt brought into the comm. section. It is expected that the removal of dust will also prolong the life of communication equipment and that the decreased attrition rate of this equipment will reduce man hours in maintenance and repair.

(d) COMMAND ACTION: On 17 July 1969 a work-order was submitted through this headquarters for the acquisition of TILE, ASPHALT FSN 7220-224-6430 to be installed in the 164th CAG comm. center.

(2) Survival Radios

(a) OBSERVATION: Emergency Survival Radios AN/URC-10 are presently in short supply in RVN. There are presently 140 more of these radios located in RVN and a critical requirement exists for this equipment.

(b) EVALUATION: A newer model Survival Radio AN/URC-68 is expected shortly in-country. Within the next few months, 3800 AN/URC-68 radios will be shipped to RVN. These new radios are compact VHF/FM and UHF/AM transceivers and they have both voice and beacon capabilities.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That aviation units report to their next higher, their status of Survival Radios in terms of amount on hand; operative; inoperative; and on request. Further recommend that those units holding the older model AN/URC-10 submit subject radios for replacement with the newer AN/URC-68.

(d) COMMAND ACTION: On 20 June 1969 the Comm. section of the 164th CAG submitted a compiled report of status of Survival radios to 1st AVN Bde, listing the equipment on hand; operative; inoperative; and equipment on requisition.

1. Organization: None

1 Incl
as

JACK H. TULLINSON
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding

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AFMAGC-0 (15 Aug 69) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 164th Combat Aviation Group
For the Period Ending 31 July 1969, AG 33POR-69 (AI) (U)

TO: HEADQUARTERS, 1ST AVIATION BRIGADE, AG 96384

THRU: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, AFMAGC-LSA,
APO 96375
Commander-in-Chief, United States Army Pacific, AFMAGC-OP,
APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D.C., 20310

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed subject report and concurs with the
contents except as noted below.

2. (C) The following additional comments are considered pertinent:

a. Paragraph 2a(1), page 3, addresses the status of an ITOE change
for ITC, 164th Aviation Group (Combat). The ITOE as submitted by Hq,
164th Aviation Group (Combat) on 2 Mar 69 was not in agreement with the DA
directed USARV ITOE Standardization Program. This headquarters recognized
the shortcomings of the current ITOE 1-252G, PAC 1x68, dated 23 Oct 68.
Accordingly, a proposed change to the current ITOE 1-252G was forwarded to
USARV on 19 May 69. This proposed ITOE change provides for additional
personnel for all aviation group headquarters and is in accordance with
the USARV ITOE Standardization Program.

b. Paragraph 2b(1), page 3, addresses limitations of the OH-6 in
night aerial reconnaissance. Concur with the recommendation to improve
instrumentation and lighting devices. Where the user determines that a
deficiency exists in an aircraft, an EIR should be submitted immediately.
All units have been advised of the importance of the EIR program.

c. Paragraph 2b(2), page 4, addresses the problem of VMAF Air Mission
Commanders controlling US armed helicopters. Concur with the recommendation
to place a US Army pilot with the VMAF Air Mission Commander. The local
commander must take appropriate action when a language barrier presents
a problem in conducting operations. When US armed helicopters habitually
support VMAF controlled combat assaults, the parent unit should provide
necessary liaison personnel. Units have been advised of the recommendation
for having a US Army pilot accompany the VMAF air mission commander on
such operations.

d. Paragraph 2b(3), page 4, concerns timely transportation of repair
parts. Nonconcur with the recommendation to modify the US Maintenance
Company TOE to include a CH-47 aircraft. Concur with command action to

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AFMAG-0 (1 Aug 69) 1st Ind


SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 16th Combat Aviation Group
for the Period Ending 31 July 1969, AFMAG-69 (MI) (U)

utilize Aviation Group organic OH-47s. It is not considered feasible to augment a Direct Support Maintenance Company with a single OH-47 aircraft. Efficient and effective utilization of OH-47 assets is achieved by placing a priority on the shipment of repair parts and utilizing organic assets as required.

e. Paragraph 2b(4), page 5, addresses the problem of radio frequency assignments. Concur with the recommendation to provide discrete frequencies. The 1st Aviation Brigade is conducting a complete reevaluation of the 16th Aviation Group's frequency requirements. Every effort will be made to meet their needs.

f. Paragraph 2c(2), page 6, addresses shortages of survival radios. The issue of survival radios in RVN has undergone many changes. These radios were originally a 1st Logistic Command item. The survival radio is now an AIC responsibility. When the responsibility for this radio was given to AIC, they were not given the responsibility for the repair parts which remained under 1st Logistic Command. Survival radios are now a command controlled item and are issued as USARV directs. 3,800 new survival radios, AN/JRC-60, are due in country this year and this will enable USARV to fill all survival radio requirements.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


R. M. GUGLIELMO
MAJ, AGC
Adjutant General

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AVHGC-DST (15 Aug 69) 2d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 164th Combat Aviation Group
for the Period Ending 31 July 1969, MCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 30 SEP 1969

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,
APO 96558

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 July 1969 from Headquarters, 164th Aviation Group (CBT).

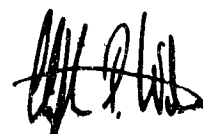
2. Comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning "Personnel overages in HHC, 164th CAG", section II, page 3, paragraph 2a (1). The 1st Aviation Brigade has submitted an MTOE to change MTOE 1-252G. The unit proposes a personnel authorization increase of 39 spaces within the various sections of the HHC, Combat Aviation Group. Because of the standardization program, it would be necessary to provide 117 spaces for the three HHC assigned to the 1st Aviation Brigade plus 39 spaces for HHC, 16th Combat Aviation Group assigned to the Americal Division, a total of 156 spaces. This headquarters is unable to provide the additional spaces required and it is not anticipated that sufficient spaces will be accrued in USARV in the foreseeable future. The 1st Aviation Brigade will be notified of this situation and will be requested to identify trade-off spaces.

b. Reference item concerning "Communication Equipment Failure", section II, page 5, paragraph 2e (1); concur. Units should submit requests for air conditioning in accordance with USARV Reg 420-54. No further action is required by USARPAC or DA.

c. Reference item concerning "Survival Radios", section II, page 6, paragraph 2e (2); nonconcur. The recommendation to replace the AN/URC-10 is not possible due to the shortage of survival radios in-country. Further action is required by USARPAC and DA to expedite the delivery of survival radios to RVN.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



C. D. WILSON
1LT, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

Cy furn:
164th CAG
1st Avn Bde

GPOP-DT (15 Aug 69) 3d Ind


SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 164th Combat Aviation Group for
Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 21 OCT 69

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

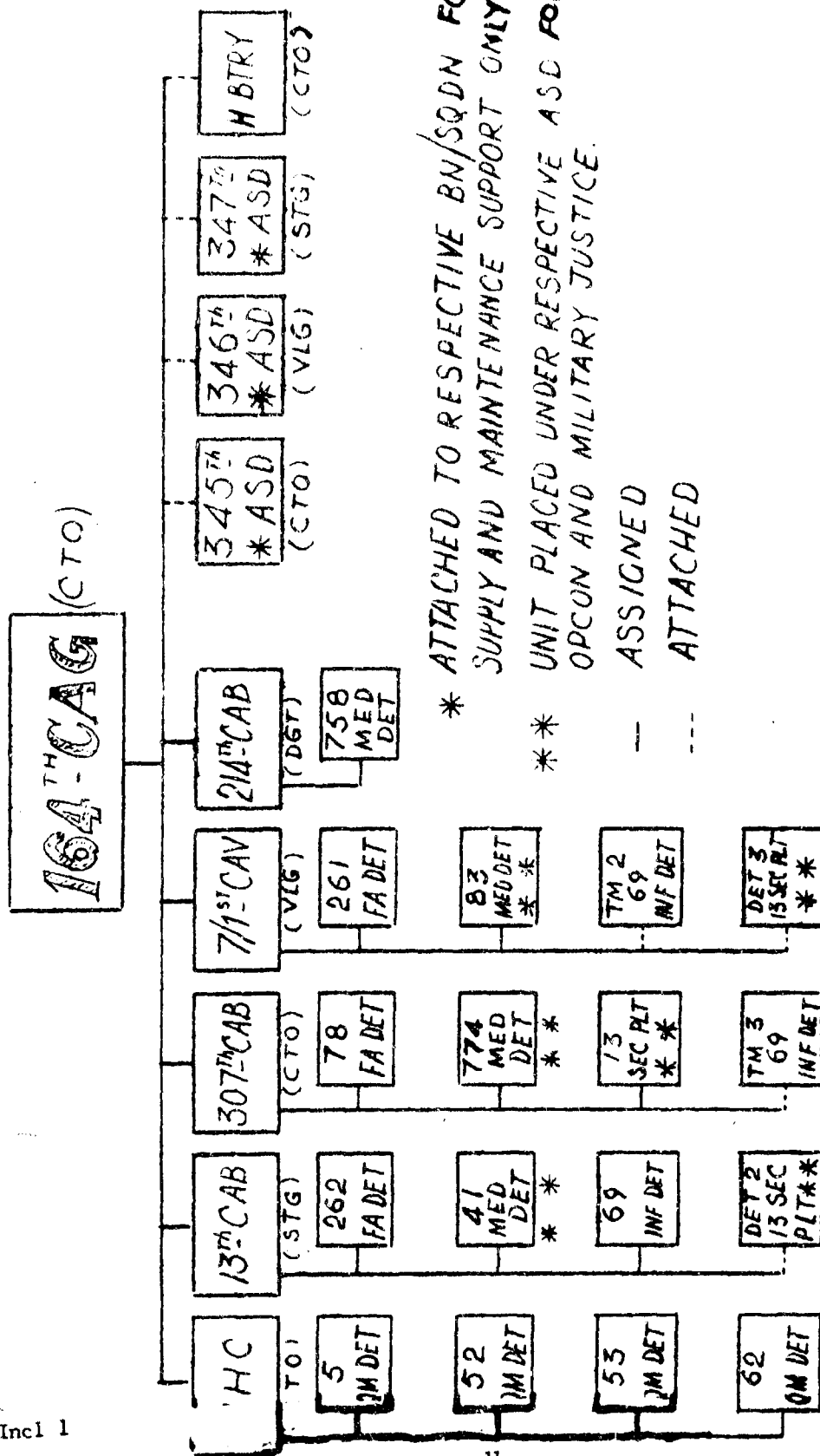
1. This headquarters concurs in the report, as indorsed, except as follows.
2. Reference paragraph 2e(2). As of 30 September 1969, 308 AN/URC-68 survival radios had been shipped to Vietnam. Shipments are expected to continue at a minimum of 100 units per month. Production by the Contractor, Magnavox Corporation, has slipped due to failure of radios to meet drop test specifications.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:


D. A. TUCKER
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

CF:
CG, USARV

Incl 1



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CO, 164th Aviation Group		
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